REMARKS

The application stands with claims 1-24 where claims 1, 11, 14 and 23 are independent. Please amend claims 14 and 23 for the reasons mentioned below.

Claims 1-9, 14-15, 17-21 and 23-24 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-10 of Hoffman et al. (commonly owned U.S. Patent No. 5,775,934) in view of Lin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,573,423). In response, Applicant has filed a terminal disclaimer which disclaims the portion of the patent term that extends beyond that of the '934 patent. The terminal disclaimer accompanies this response. For this reason, applicant respectfully requests that the terminal disclaimer be entered and that the rejection of claims 1-9, 14-15, 17-21 and 23-24 under obviousness type double patenting be withdrawn.

Claims 11-12, 14-15, 17-20 and 24 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Herrington (U.S. Patent No. 916,313) in view of Lin (5,573,423). In response, Applicant respectfully traverses because the cited references, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest a compression collar rotatably mounted through the body cap opening as recited in Claim 11 and now similarly recited in Claim 14 as amended.

Herrington is directed to a spark plug having a core 10 with a conductor 12 disposed therein. The conductor includes a tapered head portion 22 for engaging a cable 33. A nut 25 is positioned over the cable 33. The nut 25 includes a reduced width portion 27 at one end and internal threads 26 at the opposite end. Wedge shaped pinching members 30 are positioned within the nut so as to engage the cable when the nut is secured to the core. It is clear from this structure that the close engagement of nut 25 on the pinching member 30 will prevent rotation of the pinching member.

The Examiner appears to acknowledge that Herrington does not teach a compression collar rotatably mounted through the body cap, and relies on Lin to disclose this feature.

Lin, however, does not teach this feature either. Lin discloses a cable mounting device with a junction block 1, a tapered plug 2 and a hollow screw member 3. The direct contact between the tapered surface 24 of plug 2 and wall 33 of the member 3 in order to maintain pressure on the cable 4 (as shown in FIG. 4) strongly suggests that the plug is not free to rotate within hole 11 once the Lin connector is assembled. No where in Lin is there any suggestion of permitting the plug 2 to rotate to reduce cable rotation stresses, which is the problem identified and solved by the present invention (See e.g., page 8, lines 13-14). For this reason, Applicant submits that the combination of Herrington and Lin does not disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claims 11 and 14, and therefore, respectfully requests that the §103(a) rejection of claims 11 and 14, and their depending claims 12 and 15, 17-20 and 24 be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6, 9-15 and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barth (U.S. Patent No. 1,856,018) in view of the Lin. In response, Applicant traverses because both Barth and Lin fail to illustrate a conductive prong attached to a connector body as recited in claims 1, 11 and now 14. The wedge 14 in Barth is not attached, nor is it even mentioned in Barth whether or not the wedge is conductive.

Additionally, no motivation exists to combine the Barth and Lin patents because no need exists to provide the Barth patent with a compression collar having gripping means since the cap terminal and the sleeve engage each other and there is no free space in the battery terminal to house an additional member that engages the conductor any way. For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the § 103 rejection of claims 1, 11 and 14, and their depending claims 2-6, 9-10, 12-13, 15, 17-19 be withdrawn.

Claims 7-8 and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barth patent in view of Lin and further in view of Gourley (U.S. Patent No.). In response, Applicant traverses because no motivation exists to combine Gourley with Barth and Lin.

Instead, Gourley illustrates a wire coupling device with a body 20 having two neck portions 21 with external threads positioned opposite each other. A contact member 30 with two tapered portions 31c that are positioned opposite each other is disposed within the body. A cable 11 is disposed in each neck so that it engages the tapered portion positioned in the body.

No motivation exists to combine Gourley with the connector taught by Barth and the mounting device taught by Lin, first, because both Lin and Barth are directed to end connections, not to connections in the middle of a wire or a splice connection for two wires as in Gourley. The Examiner must point to some reference that suggests changing a connection to a splice connection. No where does Lin or Barth suggest that a two wire splice connection should be used, especially when these two references are specifically directed to end connections.

Second, adding the prongs of Gourley to either Lin or Barth destroys structure and/or function in these two references. Barth discloses a chamber that holds an unattached wedge 14, while Lin discloses a prongless connection. In addition, Gourley has contact member 13 positioned within the main body member 20 such that the shape of contact 30 locks it within the main body member in a particular configuration. Without a detailed explanation, it is impossible to determine how Gourley could suggest a prong and other structure, such as a splice connection, for the other two references without somehow completely changing the structure of one of these references. Each one has specific structure for a specific purpose. It is mere speculation or improper hindsight to state that the contact member 30 of Gourley could somehow be changed or placed into the plug 2 or cap 3 of Lin without eliminating structure and the function of that

structure in Lin; and this same reasoning applies to Barth. For these reasons, Applicant submits that the § 103 rejection of claims 7-8 and 16 has been overcome, and respectfully requests that the § 103 rejection of claims 7-8 and 16 be withdrawn.

Claims 1-15, 16-22 and 24 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin in view of Herrington, Gourley and further in view of GB Patent No. 460,156. In response, Applicant traverses because no motivation exists to combine the Lin, Herrington, Gourley and GB 460, 156 to arrive at the present invention.

The GB 460, 156 illustrates an electrical connector having a hollow insulator 2 with conducting members 3 and 4 attached thereto. The conducting member 3 includes a co-axial screw-threaded pin 10. The conducting member 4 is externally screw-threaded 13 to receive a nut. A flexible metal casing 12 is disposed in conducting member 4 and spring fingers 15 surround the metal casing. The spring fingers 15 are rounded to engage the casing without penetrating it.

Since one of the objects of Lin is to provide a cable mounting device with minimal parts to reduce manufacturing costs (col. 1, et seq.), it would therefore not have been obvious to add additional components to the device. Thus, adding a prong to Lin goes against this teaching.

In addition, it is not clear how the structure of the plug 2 would need to be changed if a prong was added to the plug 2 in Lin. For instance, it appears from FIG. 3 of Lin that the stripped wire or conductor 41 is meant to fit snuggly within the hole 25 of the plug 2. Adding a plug, seems to destroy part of the function of the hole 25, and requires a redesign of this hole in order to accommodate the compression of the conductor 41 against a prong.

Finally, the Examiner has not cited to a reference to disclose the problem of a connection without the plug as a basis of the motivation. Without this citation, the Examiner is improperly

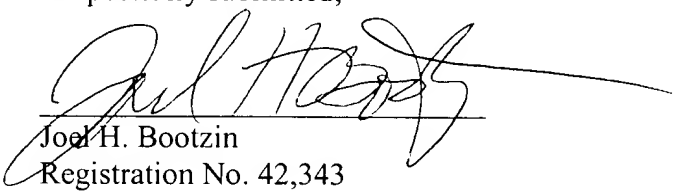
using hindsight to derive the present invention. For these reasons, Applicant submits that the Examiner has not provided the motivation for redesigning the Lin plug 2 to place a prong on the device in Lin. Thus, Applicant further submits that the § 103 rejection of claims 1, 11 and 14 and their depending claims 2-10, 10-13, 15-22 and 24 has been overcome. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this § 103 rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin in view of the Herrington, Gourley, GB 460,156 and further in view of Gadke (U.S. Patent No. 1,247,656). In response, Applicant respectfully traverses because amended claim 23 now recites that the gripping fingers are integrally formed with the rest of the body. None of the cited references show this configuration as disclosed by the present invention in FIG. 4 and now recited in claim 23. Since none of the cited references, alone or in combination, recite all of the features of present claim 23, Applicant submits that the § 103 rejection of claim 23 has been overcome, and respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

In addition, Gadke teaches a terminal for conductors having a separate sleeve 3 that receives a cable at one end with a shallow recess 4 and passage 6 at the opposite end. The sleeve 3 also includes a projection 10. A second conductor 7 is provided with a sleeve 8 that has a cavity 9 with an annular recess 12 that is separate from sleeve 3. The sleeve 3 is attached to cable 2 and disconnectably positioned within the cavity 9 to connect the conductors. The projections 10 are not integral with second conductor 7. Thus, the Gadke patent does <u>not</u> illustrate a gripping collar that is integrally formed with the body as recited in claim 23. For this reason, Applicant submits that the § 103 rejection of claim 23 has been overcome and respectfully requests the rejection be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and allow all of the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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